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2 Chairman Phil Mendelson

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6 Councilmember Charles Allen

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10 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie


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14 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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18 Councilmember Anita Bonds


Councilmember Janeese Lewis George


Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau


Councilmember Mary M. Cheh


Councilmember Elissa Silverman


Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

23 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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25 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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30 To recognize and honor the contributions of Daniel R. Smith, Sr., to Ward 4, the District of
31 Columbia, and our country.

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33 WHEREAS, Daniel R. Smith, Sr. was born in Winsted, Connecticut, on March 11,
34 1932, to Clara Wheeler Smith and Abram Smith, a former slave, making Mr. Smith one of
35 the last remaining children of enslaved Black Americans;

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37 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith graduated from Gilbert High School in Winsted,
38 Connecticut, and later served in the U.S. military as an operating room technician and a
39 scrub nurse in the Korean War;

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41 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith graduated from Springfield College in Massachusetts in
42 1960, where he majored in general studies and minored in psychology and sociology, and
43 also served as student body president. After graduating college, Daniel R. Smith, Sr. worked

44 as a social worker for three years then continued his pursuit of higher education at the
45 Tuskegee Institute School of Veterinary Medicine, but withdrew from school to join the civil
46 rights movement;

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48 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith accepted a position as executive director of the Lowndes
49 Christian Movement for Human Rights organization in 1965 and started directing a program
50 to teach migrant seasonal farmworkers how to read and write. Mr. Smith participated in
51 many civil rights activities, putting his life at risk to help others, and accompanied Martin
52 Luther King, Jr. on the march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama;

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54 WHEREAS, in 1968, Mr. Smith moved to Washington, D.C., where he developed
55 neighborhood health centers. While working at the Office of Economic Opportunity, Mr.
56 Smith served as Assistant Chief of Program Development and developed a national program
57 of Neighborhood Health Centers that provided ambulatory health care for low-income
58 communities throughout the United States, using a medical team approach. He later became
59 the National Director and Chief of the Area Health Education Program (AHEC) in 1972
60 where he worked with medical schools throughout the United States to provide more primary
61 care and family practice physicians and related health professionals, receiving a
62 distinguished service award for his outstanding management of the program. He also
63 traveled to apartheid-era South Africa, meeting with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to help
64 expand the reach of such health programs;

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66 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith retired from the federal government in 1994, and began
67 volunteering at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, as head usher of the Washington
68 National Cathedral, and Financial Secretary for the Ward 4 Democrats for a number of years;

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70 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith met Loretta Neumann in 2002 and the two were married on
71 October 28, 2006 at the Washington National Cathedral, and they resided together in the
72 Takoma neighborhood of Ward 4. Together they were writing his forthcoming memoir, "Son
73 of a Slave: A Black Man's Journey in White America" at the time of his death. Mr. Smith's
74 life story is a vivid reminder that slavery is a recent part of American history and that such
75 evils are not that long ago; and

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77 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith is survived by his wife as well as his two children from his
78 first marriage, April Smith Motaung of Columbia, Maryland and Daniel "Rob" Smith, Jr. of
79 New York, as well as a granddaughter.

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81 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
82 resolution may be cited as the "Daniel R. Smith Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2022".

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84 Sec. 2. The Council honors and celebrates the contributions of Daniel R. Smith, Sr. to
85 Ward 4, the District, and the United States.

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87 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
88 the District of Columbia Register.

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